

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

MAY 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Spring brings more employment - unemployment drops

April may not have brought spring showers but it did bring jobs to many area residents. The number of people with jobs in Northwest Wisconsin increased in April as laid off residents returned to work. More jobs and fewer unemployed produced lower unemployment rates in nine of the ten counties in Northwest Wisconsin.

According to estimates released by the Department of Workforce Development the combined unemployment rate for the counties of Northwest Wisconsin dropped from 9.6 percent in March to 8.4 percent in April. While the current rate remains higher than the 7.9 percent of one year ago, it signifies the return to work for over 1,000 laid off residents.

Notice: The US Census Bureau released demographic profile data for Wisconsin counties and municipalities on May 14, 2002. Included in this release was data on households and families, housing costs, income, poverty, labor force participation, ancestry, disability, and accommodations.

To retrieve the data, go to:

www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir/boir/demographic/wisconsin/index.html

Also released in May was county **Personal Per Capita Income** that appears in a table at the bottom of page 2.

Likewise, the state seasonally adjusted rate declined from 5.7 to 5.4 percent. The national unemployment rate, however, increased from 5.7 to 6.0 percent.

The number of unemployed in the northwest declined from 8,980 in

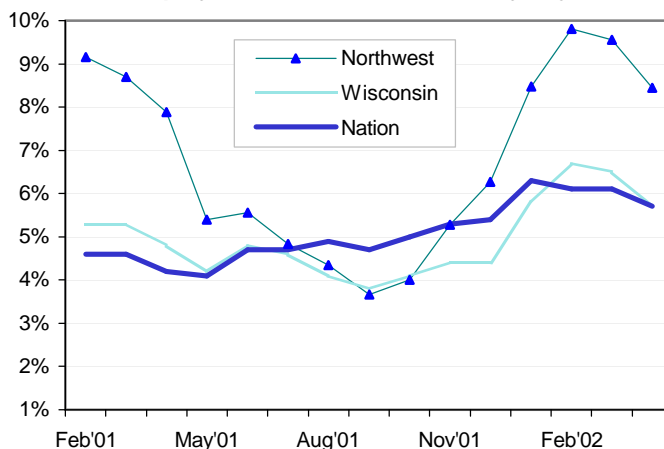
March to 7,930 in April. The reduction in the number of unemployed of 1,050 nearly matched the increase of 930 in the number of residents with jobs. Out of a total labor force in April of 93,860, roughly 85,900 were employed. The reduction in unemployed also includes residents who commute to jobs outside the northwest area. The current estimate, however, remains 1,800 higher than one year ago.

Even though the unemployment rate in April remains the highest rate for the month since the early 1990s, the seasonal decline follows typical trends. That means that many of the workers who were laid off last fall and winter are returning to work but those that were permanently displaced are still struggling to find work.

The largest increase in jobs occurred in the construction industry division and the gain was shared by all of the counties in the region. Retail trade and service industry employers also added workers in April in all counties except Iron. The decline in seasonal tourism jobs is the reason the unemployment rate in Iron County increased from 9.8 to 12.0 percent in April.

Iron County was one of the two counties in the state that had a higher unemployment rate in April. In 70 counties unemployment rates declined over the month. Thirteen counties reported a reduction in unemployment rate from one year earlier, including Price, Sawyer and Taylor counties.

Unemployment Rates-Not seasonally adjusted



	Feb'01	Mar'01	Apr'01	Feb'02	Mar'02	Apr'02
Northwest	9.1%	8.7%	7.9%	9.8%	9.6%	8.4%
Wisconsin	5.3%	5.3%	4.8%	6.7%	6.5%	5.7%
Nation	4.6%	4.6%	4.2%	6.1%	6.1%	5.7%

Labor Force Estimates - not seasonally adjusted

April Data	Wisconsin	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
Civilian Labor Force*	3,047,100	8,200	7,600	7,200	23,400	3,500	7,000	7,400	10,200	11,000	8,300
Employed	2,873,600	7,200	6,900	6,600	21,800	3,100	6,500	6,800	9,400	10,200	7,500
Unemployed	173,500	1,000	700	600	1,700	400	500	700	800	800	700
Unemployment rate(%)	5.7%	11.9%	9.4%	8.3%	7.1%	12.0%	7.8%	9.2%	7.7%	7.5%	8.7%

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

April Data	Wisconsin	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
Total jobs, all industries*	2,811,640	8,490	3,790	4,530	19,120	2,380	6,370	6,110	7,050	9,090	6,070
Construction & Mining	119,670	270	220	250	950	270	190	190	350	320	230
Manufacturing	563,460	1,690	200	1,030	1,160	450	2,510	2,310	780	3,210	1,100
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	131,270	270	230	150	2,720	50	120	210	180	560	240
Wholesale Trade	136,830	170	40	30	1,140	60	130	140	130	450	170
Retail Trade	497,390	1,510	650	950	3,910	540	1,020	740	1,720	1,440	1,310
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	151,840	350	140	130	500	40	210	130	300	360	200
Services	781,930	2,390	780	740	5,410	480	1,160	910	1,600	1,640	1,350
Government	429,250	1,850	1,540	1,270	3,340	490	1,040	1,470	1,990	1,100	1,470

Change from previous month

Total jobs, all industries*	35,940	120	0	110	330	-110	40	30	230	240	190
Construction & Mining	10,770	30	30	40	110	40	20	30	50	80	40
Manufacturing	1,320	0	0	0	-140	-10	-40	30	10	90	10
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	1,180	0	10	0	170	-20	0	0	0	40	10
Wholesale Trade	970	0	0	0	30	0	10	0	0	20	10
Retail Trade	7,260	0	40	40	50	-50	10	10	40	10	40
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	490	20	10	10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0
Services	11,440	40	-50	20	70	-90	20	-70	80	-20	70
Government	2,510	40	-40	-20	60	10	30	30	50	40	20

Change from one year ago

Total jobs, all industries*	-4,510	-320	170	-230	920	90	80	180	480	280	-90
Construction & Mining	80	-10	20	20	60	30	20	0	30	-40	10
Manufacturing	-25,860	-90	10	-10	-170	0	80	70	-10	190	-140
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	-3,640	-10	10	0	350	-10	0	0	0	20	-10
Wholesale Trade	160	0	-10	-10	50	0	-10	10	10	-10	10
Retail Trade	3,810	0	10	10	170	10	10	10	250	30	0
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	3,340	10	-10	0	-10	0	0	0	10	10	-10
Services	13,420	-120	-40	-110	430	0	-10	30	120	80	50
Government	4,190	-90	170	-120	30	60	-10	60	70	-10	10

** Includes employment with employers located in area. Current month estimates are preliminary. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

The per capita personal income (PCPI) for the Northwest Wisconsin region rose 4.3 percent from 1999 to 2000 according to estimates released in May by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The increase lags the 4.6 percent increase in the state and increases the gap with state. Northwest PCPI is now 74.9 percent of the state, the lowest it has been since 1996.

Rusk County had the lowest PCPI in the region. Manufacturing jobs in the county are significant and wages in those jobs rose only 0.5 percent in the last year. Two other counties with a large share of manufacturing jobs, Price and Taylor, also had lower increases.

Per Capita Personal Income

	Wisc	NW Wisc	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
1995	\$22,573	\$16,869	\$17,408	\$16,531	\$15,337	\$17,894	\$17,222	\$18,693	\$14,966	\$16,553	\$16,125	\$16,265
1996	\$23,554	\$17,634	\$18,108	\$17,232	\$16,133	\$18,551	\$17,967	\$19,368	\$15,671	\$17,352	\$17,246	\$17,157
1997	\$24,481	\$18,486	\$18,727	\$18,638	\$17,095	\$19,532	\$18,084	\$20,656	\$16,078	\$18,282	\$17,630	\$18,136
1998	\$26,004	\$19,597	\$19,843	\$19,654	\$18,037	\$20,721	\$18,767	\$21,366	\$17,889	\$19,251	\$19,124	\$18,860
1999	\$26,869	\$20,177	\$20,276	\$19,950	\$18,532	\$21,692	\$19,511	\$21,396	\$18,504	\$20,235	\$19,549	\$19,181
2000	\$28,100	\$21,045	\$21,512	\$20,911	\$19,431	\$22,484	\$20,640	\$22,019	\$19,191	\$21,356	\$20,269	\$20,002
1-yr. change	4.6%	4.3%	6.1%	4.8%	4.9%	3.7%	5.8%	2.9%	3.7%	5.5%	3.7%	4.3%
5-yr. change	24.5%	24.8%	23.6%	26.5%	26.7%	25.7%	19.8%	17.8%	28.2%	29.0%	25.7%	23.0%

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, May 2002 (www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis)

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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